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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicants: Varriale, <i>et al.</i> |) | Group Art Unit: 1724 |
| |) | |
| Serial No.: 09/675,464 |) | Examiner: Thomas M. Lithgow |
| |) | |
| Filed: September 28, 2000 |) | Deposit Account: 50-2548 |
| |) | |
| For: Method and Apparatus for |) | |
| Multistage Liquid Filtration |) | |

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 14, 2004, please consider the following Amendment and Remarks. The present response was due on April 14, 2004. Therefore, the present response is being submitted with the required two-month extension of time request under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 to extend the period of response to June 14, 2004. If any extension of time or additional fees for the accompanying response are required, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Deposit Account 50-2548.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.